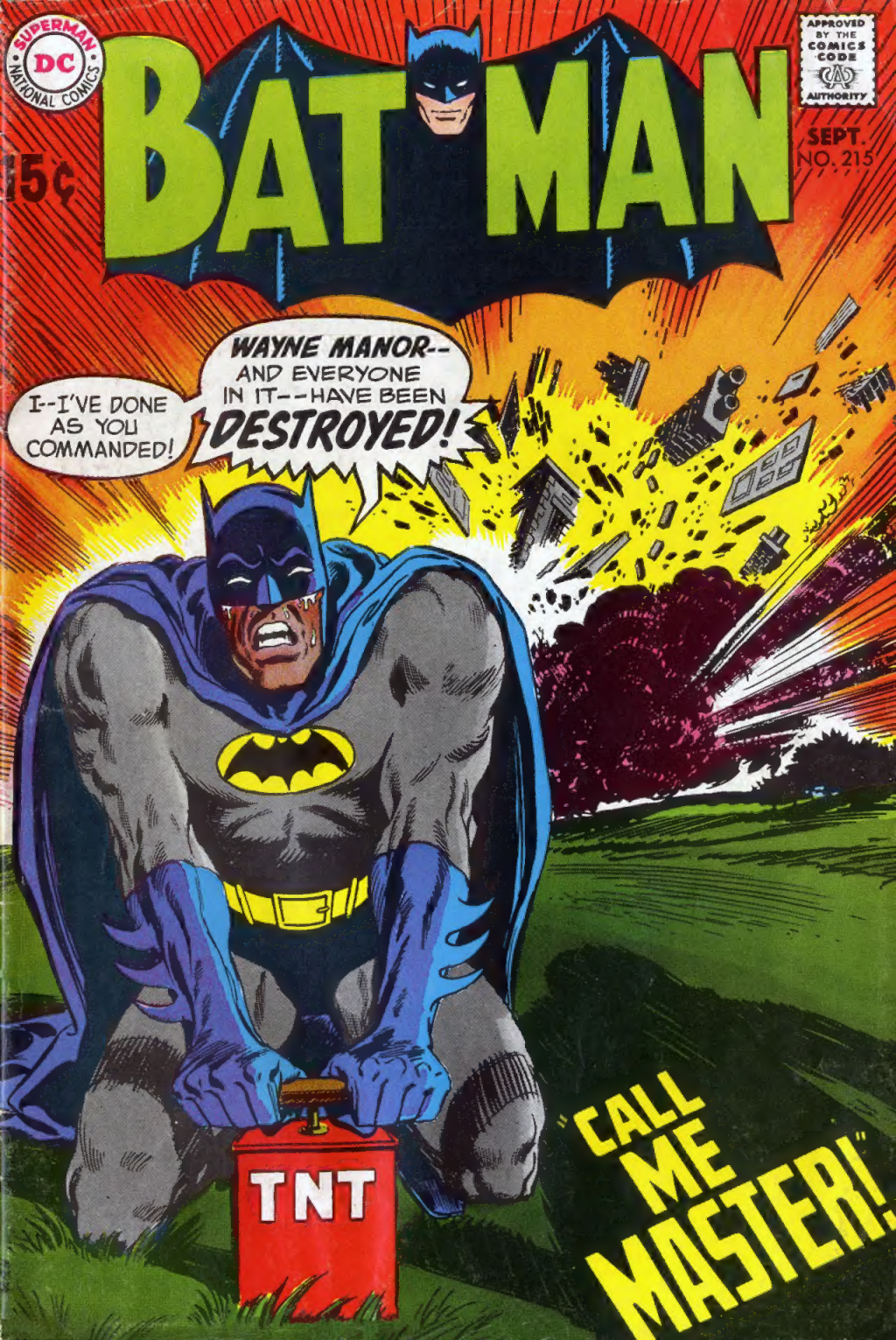

SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
BAT MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
15¢
SEPT.
NO. 215
I--I'VE DONE AS YOU COMMANDED!
WAYNE MANOR-- AND EVERYONE IN IT--HAVE BEEN DESTROYED!
TNT
"CALL ME MASTER!"

Be a Sales Leader Who Picks the Prizes

Fabulous

or Chooses the Cash

$100 a box

for Selling the Personalized Christmas Cards

They're In

that Sell Themselves

FROM FREE ALBUM

You Win!

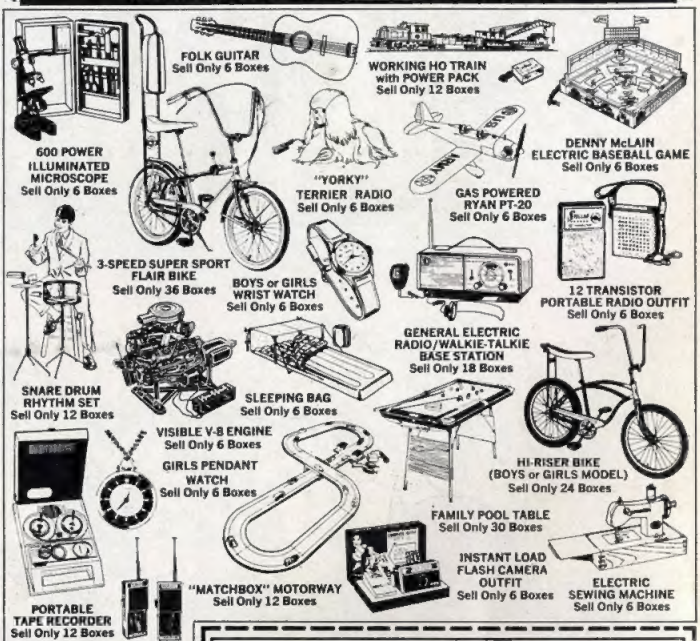
Join Sales Leadership Club

EXTRA BONUS
Free Gifts For Re-Orders!

JOIN THE CLUB THAT GIVES YOU MORE...

- **FREE ALBUM** of Actual Christmas Cards — Yours to Keep!
- **AMAZING VALUE** top quality cards with **NAME IMPRINTED FREE** for **LESS THAN 6¢ EACH!**
- **FINEST SELECTION FOR EVERYONE** — Sell Faster, Easier!
- **NO BOXES TO CARRY OR RETURN!**
- **NO RISK — NO OBLIGATION — NO INVESTMENT!**

Just A Few Of Our Terrific Prizes In Free Catalog



No Postage Stamp Necessary If Mailed in the United States

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
First Class Permit No. 3105, Springfield, Mass.

Postage Will be Paid by Addressee

SALES LEADERSHIP CLUB
Dept. S9N7
Springfield, Mass. 01101

Be "In" And WIN!

Join The Leader NOW!

SALES LEADERSHIP CLUB,
Springfield, Massachusetts 01101

IT'S EASY TO BE A SALES LEADER GET FABULOUS PRIZES OR CASH

Just fill in coupon below and mail at once — no envelope, no stamp necessary! We'll enroll you as a club member and rush everything needed to start you on the way to earning the prizes of your choice — ALL AT NO COST TO YOU!

For many years, thousands like you have followed the Sales Leadership Club plan to success, just by showing our easy-to-carry Personalized Christmas Card Album to friends, relatives, neighbors and businessmen. The beautiful cards practically sell themselves . . . so you take orders at the bargain price of only $2.95 per box, containing as many as 50 cards, depending upon designs selected — EACH CARD WITH NAME IMPRINTED FREE!

Many valuable prizes can be yours for selling ONLY 6 BOXES, and there's no limit to the number you can earn! If you prefer cash instead of a prize, you may keep $1.00 for each box sold. That's all there is to it! GET STARTED TODAY — THE PROVEN SALES LEADERSHIP WAY!

Life Is Great When You're A Winner. Everyone Who Tries Can Win!

Fold Over ↑ Don't Cut! Just Seal (Paste, Staple or Scotch Tape)

Enroll me as a member. Rush FREE Membership Card, Christmas Card Album, Prize Catalog and full details on how to earn prizes or cash.

Name _____

Address _____ **Apt. No.** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINES — FILL IN & MAIL — NO STAMP NEEDED

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STORY BY: FRANK ROBBINS
BATMAN
With ROBIN The Boy Wonder
ART BY: IRV NOVICK AND DICK GIORDANO
BATMAN-- WHY-?!
POW!
THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE, ROBIN! AN ORDER IS AN ORDER!
HAS LAW-AND-ORDER GONE BERSERK? HAS THE "ORDER" THAT BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE'S DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO, TURNED INTO A MONSTROUS TRAVESTY THAT THREATENS TO DESTROY HIM? WHO HAS COMMANDEERED THE CAPED CRUSADER TO--
"CALL ME MASTER!"
S-169

BATMAN, No. 215, Sept., 1969. Published monthly, with the exception of April and October, by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Sts., SPARTA, ILL. 62286. Editorial, Executive offices, 909 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Julius Schwartz, Editor. Carmine Infantino, Editorial Director. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879. No subscriptions. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 41 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017. Copyright © National Periodical Publications, Inc., 1969. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred.

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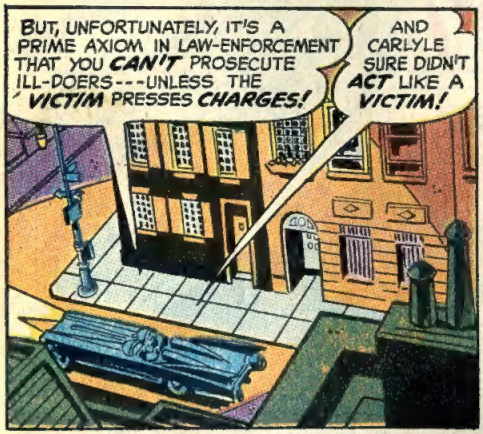
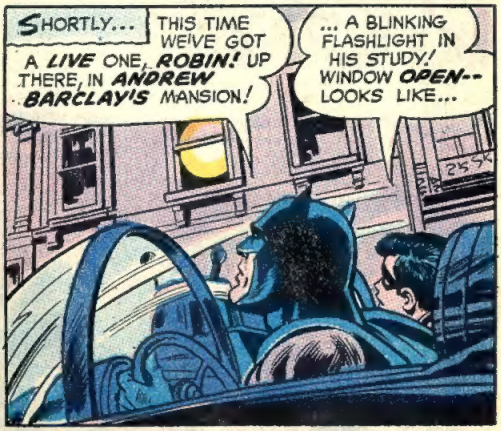
IN THE OFFICE OF ONE OF GOTHAM'S LEADING CITIZENS, J. CARLYLE, ESQ. ...
...YOU UNDERSTAND, THEN? TONIGHT!
IT WILL BE DONE, MASTER!
SHORTLY, IN THE EXECUTIVE SUITE OF ANOTHER CIVIC LUMINARY, ANDREW BARCLAY...
YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS--
AND I SHALL CARRY THEM OUT AS INSTRUCTED!
AND AGAIN, AN URGENT CALL INTERRUPTS A BOARD MEETING...
...THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE EXPLICIT, MR. STERLING---YOU WILL FOLLOW THEM IN PROPER SEQUENCE--
--TO THE LETTER!
THAT EVENING, AT WAYNE MANSION--HOME OF GOTHAM'S OUTSTANDING YOUNG PHILANTHROPIST, BRUCE WAYNE...
I'M SORRY, SIR--- HE'S OUT FOR THE EVENING! ANY MESSAGE?
NO, IT'S PERSONAL! I'LL TRY AGAIN TOMORROW!
HANGING UP, THE MYSTERY-CALLER DIALS ANOTHER NUMBER...
A SHAME I MISSED WAYNE, BUT--THREE WILL BE SUFFICIENT FOR TONIGHT!
JIGGER--THE OPERATION IS ON! MOVE YOUR MEN OUT AS PER PLAN!
PATROLING THE DARK STREETS OF GOTHAM IS BRUCE WAYNE, IN HIS OTHER GUISE AS BATMAN--NEMESIS OF THE UNDERWORLD!
ANOTHER ROUTINE NIGHT, ROBIN---NO HOT-LINE CALLS SO FAR...
BUT NO GUARANTEE WE WON'T GET ONE EN ROUTE, BATMAN!

NO NEED TO WAIT! LOOK--- OUR FIRST "ACTION"!
EARS LOGAN, AT THE WHEEL! WHERE ME GOES --TROUBLE FOLLOWS!
FOLLOWED BY DOUBLE-TROUBLE--- US!
DISCREETLY GIVING THE SUSPECT TRAILER-TRUCK A WIDE LEAD...
ONE OF JIM CARLYLE'S STORAGE DEPOTS! AND ODDS ARE EARS ISN'T ONE OF HIS BONDED CARRIERS!
CARLYLE DEPT. STORES WAREHOUSE NO. 3
BUT WE DON'T STRIKE TILL HE COMES OUT-- RED-HANDED!
THAT'S THE WAY WE WANT THEM, ROBIN! THE "BOYS" HAVE GOTTEN AWFUL CUTE LATELY...
... PULLING EVERY TRICK IN THE "CONSTITUTIONAL-LIBERTIES" BAG, BATMAN! FUNNY--- THEY MOVED IN AWFUL EASY! AS IF THE DOOR WERE OPEN!...
...SO THERE GOES OUR "FORCIBLE-ENTRY" CHARGE!
BUT NOT OUR "ILLEGAL-REMOVAL-OF MERCHANDISE" PLEA! LET'S HIT 'EM, ROBIN!
TOASTER
HI-FI
BATMAN?! HEADS UP, BOYS--WE'VE GOT "UNLAWFUL TRESPASSERS" ON OUR HANDS!
WE HAVE A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE OF LEGAL DEFINITIONS, SHYSTER!
ZAP!
3

RIGHT, BATMAN! STRIKES ME THAT THE "UNLAWFUL" ARE ON THE OTHER END OF THIS STRIKE!
US--ILLEGIT? WHERE'S YER WARRANT FOR "INTERCEPTION AND SEARCH," BATMAN?
OWTCH! WE'VE RUN INTO A COURT-YARD FULL OF "PHILADELPHIA LAWYERS"!!
SO WE CALL A SPECIAL NIGHT-SESSION--- AND RENDER A FAST VERDICT!
GUILTY---AS CHARGED!
POW
KRAASH!
WHAT IS THIS--A KANGAROO COURT? I AM AMAZED AT YOU, BATMAN!
WHAT...?
MR. CARLYLE?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SUPERVISING A LEGIT LOADING FOR SHIPMENT, THAT'S WHAT!
YE-AH, WE'RE WORKING FOR MR. CARLYLE! AND IF YOU DON'T GIT--- HE MIGHT PREFER CHARGES AGAINST YOU FOR "INTERFERENCE WITH INTERSTATE-COMMERCE"! RIGHT, BOSS?
I-I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR, BUT---I AM SURPRISED AT BATMAN'S PRECIPITATE JUDGMENTS AND ACTIONS!
4

DISMAYED MOMENTS LATER...
THERE THEY GO--FREE AND CLEAR! CAN'T UNDERSTAND CARLYLE HIRING PUNKS LIKE THAT...
...FOR AN AFTER CLOSING-TIME SHIPMENT? STRANGE! AND HAVEN'T HEARD HE WAS DOING ANY REHABILITATION WORK WITH EX-CONS, EITHER!


BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S A PRIME AXIOM IN LAW-ENFORCEMENT THAT YOU CAN'T PROSECUTE ILL-DOERS---UNLESS THE VICTIM PRESSES CHARGES!
AND CARLYLE SURE DIDN'T ACT LIKE A VICTIM!


SHORTLY... THIS TIME WE'VE GOT A LIVE ONE, ROBIN! UP THERE, IN ANDREW BARCLAY'S MANSION!
... A BLINKING FLASHLIGHT IN HIS STUDY! WINDOW OPEN--LOOKS LIKE...

...WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A---CAT-BURGLAR! SO LET'S MAKE LIKE BATS--- AND "BELL THE CAT"!
BELL? ODD--WHY DIDN'T THE ALARM-SYSTEM GO OFF WHEN THE CAT ENTERED?

SUDDENLY THE ROOM GOES DARK, AND...
WATCH IT, ROBIN! THIS CAT HAS SHARP CLAWS!
KWEE!
C-CLOSE...

GOT TO GET IN AT HIM!
ROBIN, SWING YOUR CAPE ACROSS THE WINDOW TO DRAW HIS FIRE---

KPOW!
--WHILE I MOVE IN!
NOT AGAIN, BUB! YOU MIGHT JUST GET LUCKY YOUR THIRD TIME AT BAT!
URFF!
BAM!
SUDDENLY A FLASH-BEAM SNAPS ON, AND...
BARCLAY?! ANDREW BARCLAY..!?
CONTINUED ON 2 BP PAGE FOLLOWING.
6

Souped-up Coupe.

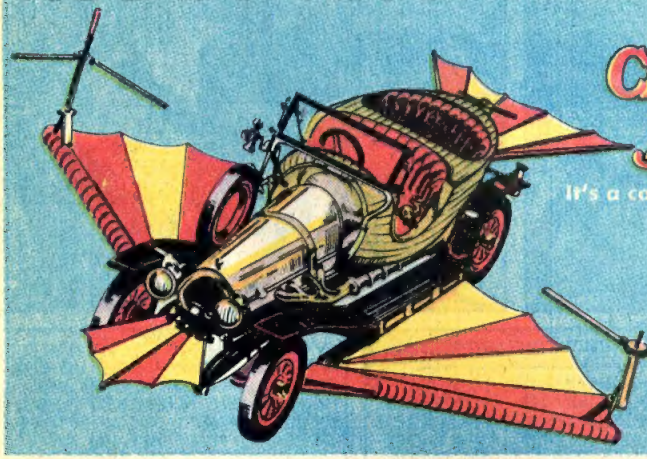
It's Kaiser's spunky little '51 Henry J—a hot contender in the gas-coupe drag class at strips across America. Revell's new 1/25 scale model of Henry J has the same authentic features as the real drag car. You build it like it really is, with hood and front fenders that tilt forward, doors that open, detailed 427 SOHC Ford engine. You'll dig the hollow tires, tinted windows and chrome trim.

Send 35¢ for new 1969 color catalog of Revell kits.
Revell, Inc.
4221 Glencoe Avenue
Venice, California 90291

Revell

July 1969 • Model of the Month
'51 Henry J Drag Coupe

FAR-OUT NEW
HOBBY KITS from AURORA



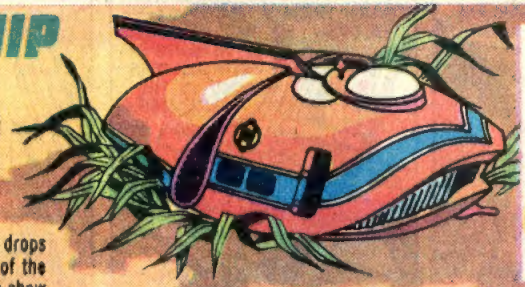
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

It's a car! It's a plane! It's a boat!

The most fantasmagorical hobby kit in the history of everything. From its chrome plated hood to its gold plated horn, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is a gasser.

© GLIDROSE PRODUCTIONS, LTD. and WARFIELD PRODUCTIONS, LTD.

SPACESHIP from LAND OF THE GIANTS



Right out of your television set drops the Space Ship into the Land of the Giants. Features lift-off roof to show three figures, authentic interior, and exciting detail.

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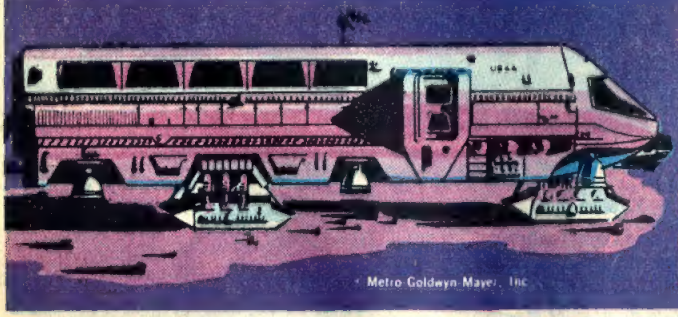

MOONBUS from the movie 2001 A SPACE ODYSSEY

An exact 10" long replica of the fabulous Moonbus from the movie "A Space Odyssey...2001". One of the most detailed kits Aurora's ever produced, it comes complete with four astronauts.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Inc.

Models can be painted as shown. Kits do not include paint or cement.

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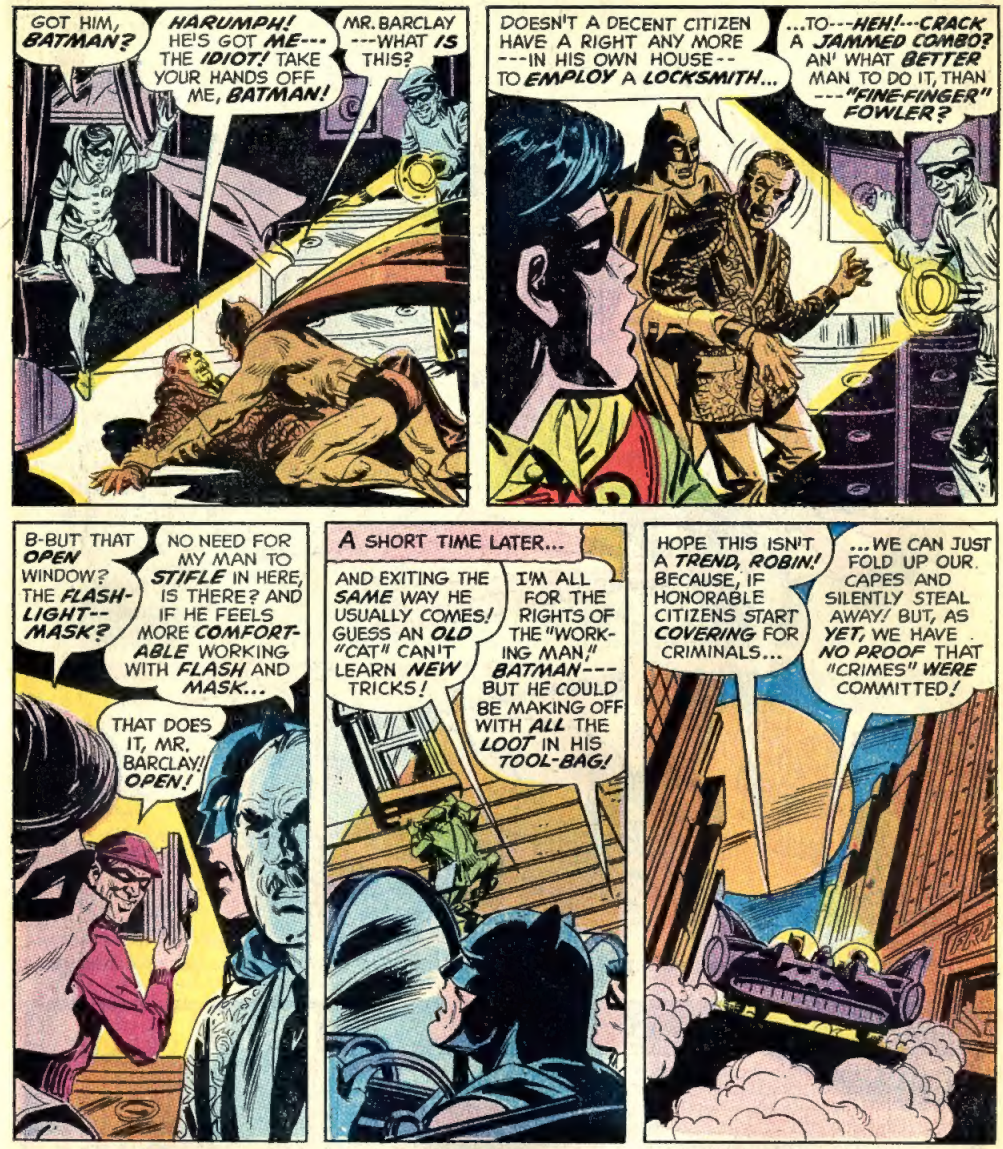
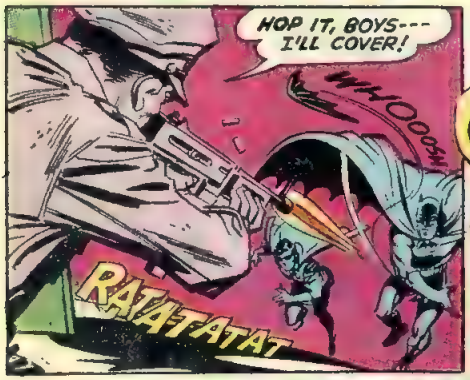
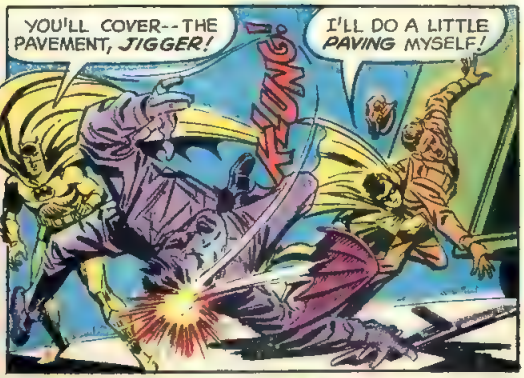
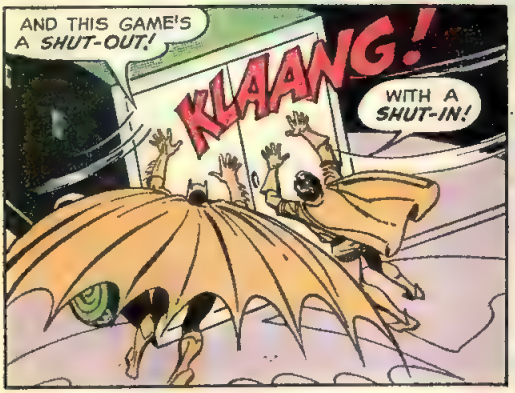
AURORA


GOT HIM, BATMAN?
HARUMPH! HE'S GOT ME--- THE IDIOT! TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME, BATMAN!
MR. BARCLAY ---WHAT IS THIS?
DOESN'T A DECENT CITIZEN HAVE A RIGHT ANY MORE ---IN HIS OWN HOUSE-- TO EMPLOY A LOCKSMITH...
...TO---HEH!---CRACK A JAMMED COMBO? AN' WHAT BETTER MAN TO DO IT, THAN ---"FINE-FINGER" FOWLER?
B-BUT THAT OPEN WINDOW? THE FLASH-LIGHT--MASK?
NO NEED FOR MY MAN TO STIFLE IN HERE, IS THERE? AND IF HE FEELS MORE COMFORT-ABLE WORKING WITH FLASH AND MASK...
THAT DOES IT, MR. BARCLAY!! OPEN!
A SHORT TIME LATER...
AND EXITING THE SAME WAY HE USUALLY COMES! GUESS AN OLD "CAT" CAN'T LEARN NEW TRICKS!
I'M ALL FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE "WORK-ING MAN," BATMAN--- BUT HE COULD BE MAKING OFF WITH ALL THE LOOT IN HIS TOOL-BAG!
HOPE THIS ISN'T A TREND, ROBIN! BECAUSE, IF HONORABLE CITIZENS START COVERING FOR CRIMINALS...
...WE CAN JUST FOLD UP OUR CAPES AND SILENTLY STEAL AWAY! BUT, AS YET, WE HAVE NO PROOF THAT "CRIMES" WERE COMMITTED!
STILL-- I CAN'T BELIEVE THOSE PUNKS WE RAN INTO HAVE GONE LEGIT! NOR THAT HONEST BUSINESS-MEN HAVE SUDDENLY GONE APE!
STERLIN GEMS
WE-LL---YOU WON'T FIND THE JEWEL KING, CLEM STERLING VOUCHING FOR THIS CAPER, BATMAN!
7







THEY'LL KEEP HERE TILL WE INVESTIGATE INSIDE!
YOU SURE BIT OFF A BIG ONE THIS TIME, JIGGER! HOW COME YOU GOT SO FOOLISH!
AWH, IT WAS A LEAD-PIPE CINCH---TILL YOU HAPPENED ALONG!

CURIOUS...NO MARKS OF FORCIBLE ENTRY INSIDE, AND--- THE ENTIRE ALARM-SYSTEM SHUT OFF!
THAT EXPLAINS HOW THEY JUMPED THIS GUARD--WITHOUT FOREWARNING!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

POCKET SPY TELESCOPE

Magnifies 64 times avg. 8 Power. Terrific power yet so small in fountain pen. Precision lenses. All metal, chrome finish. Reverse and use as microscope magnifying 900 times! Opens Super Size Makes $1.75

Hear Police, Fire, Aircraft Calls on ANY Radio

Tuner-Converter ... Use with standard radio. Solid state circuit. Uses 9 v. transistor battery.
6480. Police, Fire Calls (30-50 MHZ)...$8.98
6196. Aircraft, Tower Calls (110-130 MHZ) $8.98

8 FOOT HOT AIR BALLOON

Floats to great heights on pure hot air. Safe. No flames are carried aloft. Fly it over and over again. Will carry parachutes, instruments, etc. Great for July 4th, celebrations, science clubs or just real fun.
☐ 7077 Complete . $2.50

Cuckoo Clock

Authentic, attractive German Black Forest Design. 6-ft. chain with weight makes realistic ticking pendulum accurately regulated clock. Over 1 foot high. Assemble. A operate in a few minutes.
Complete Postpaid
6106... $6.20

BIDGET SPY CAMERA

Take movies or regular pictures. Size of pocket watch. Conceal in hand. Imported European precision made with fine lens, solid metal construction, chrome trim, rapid view finder, mounted economical. Good pictures. Two enlargements. 24 ex. Takes ten pictures on 16 mm roll. With leather eyecatcher case.
No. 6807. Camera & Case $4.98
No. 6808. Film 6 rolls $1.00

FELT Emblems

For Sweater, Shirt, Jacket

Bold, colorful. For teams, clubs, fun. 7018 Bulldog. 7738 Skull. 7019A Wild cat. 7736 Tiger. 3¼ in. 3 for 45¢

4 NICKELS TO 4 DIMES

Small brass cover placed over 4 nickels. Small brass cover and nickel plated base changed to 4 dimes! Everything done in a jiffy. Simple ... amazing but practical. Lots of delight; no practice.
No. 3173. Complete. Postpaid $1.00

BEETLE WIG

Wear as it is. Cut & arrange to suit. Beautiful silk-like material. Adjustable size. Easy to put on.
6787A. Dark Brown $2.95

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HYPNOTIZE FAST! Fascinating pocket size invention. Hold plastic HYPNO-COIN in front of person. Then, by gently moving coin a while, it captures and holds their attention while they are hypnotized QUICKLY! Complete with simplified book that tells how to use it and do it. Fun to read, how to re-hypnotize with snap of finger, sometime after.

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Hear more, music, news in bed, office, school, almost anywhere. Featured on NBC TV programs. Wear in pocket like fine pen. Tiny ear phone for private listening. Self-powered solid state circuit. No electricity. No batteries. Plays forever. Full range tuner. Money back guarantee
7082. Pen Spy Radio. Complete $1.98

MICROPHONE TRANSMITTER

Widest microphone for transmitting and pick-up.

An many magical & supernatural stunts. Use as detectaphone, phone pick-up, amplifier, telephone etc. Complete except for battery & earphone or speaker. With direct cord
No. 2965 ..... Only $1.00
No. 6957. Earphone $1.50 Each

BROADCAST THRU TV SET

WIRELESS TV TRANSMITTER. Talk, Sing, thru ANY television set on channels 2,3, or 4. Fool friends, make social announcements, practical. No connections to set. Easily wired. Uses standard battery. Solid state
6128. Microphone Transmitter Set $6.00

HORIZONTAL STEAM ENGINE

Powerful horizontal model. Nickel plated, fine with grooved flywheel and ball governor wheel for driving belt or other device.

Heats by standard blue pencil flame. Requires no fuel. Just add water & light flame. Soon steam whistle etc. + chimney. No electricity required. Burns dry or alcohol fuel. Comes complete ready to operate. As 7 metric base.
6446. Price Postpaid, $11.95

SPEEDY JET RACERS

FAST! LOUD! Model jet engine burns any fuel. Race or run indoors or outdoors in water. Adjustable rudder. Colorful, realistic model. About 6 in. With fuel. (2 for $1.00)
3387 Flying Saucer Space Ship ..... 65¢
3388. Jet Submarine ..... 2 for $1.00
3389 Racing Speedboat ..... 65¢
3411 Extra Fuel ..... 30¢ Pkg. 3 for $.75

LIVE PET CHAMELEON

CHANGES COLOR. Tongue catches flies in split-sec. Fun. Easy to keep. Wear on lapel. Live delivery guaranteed 2" long.
6901 7 Chameleons, Live Food, Instructions. All Postpaid Only $1.98

Flesh Eating Plant

Shoe Flower, Bear Flies, Bugs, Monkeyface! Clown YOUR COMMAND WHEN TO BITE. Exotic by beautiful plant shape shot on new shiny finger, pencil, bug. Feeds itself by snapping & eating pests. Darwin said "most unusual plant in world". Do home & school experiments. Fool friends. Complete, ready-to-grow in clear glass! Lovely white flowers. 12" high.
☐ 6811. Venus Fly Trap $1.00

ELECTRIC Shocker and GENERATOR

Store charge of static electricity. Lights neon lamp on top. Gives off sparks and shock. Fun for experiments.
6907 Only 98c. 3 for $2.00

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Special "mixo leaders" for new customers. Must worth several times cost. Limit: One of each per order. Sometimes items included are samples we receive from all over world, factory overruns bargains, special promotions, etc. Money back if not delighted.
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Into box, outside, under bed, make dummy talk and many other tricks. TOOLS EVERY ONE! Instructions include VENTRILO and DOUBLE THROAT. This tiny instrument fits in mouth out of sight. Also comes with bird and animal imitations easily learned in a few days.
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Instantly gives grip, wrist & arm muscle power. Reinforced cloth on palm. Conservative muscles. Adjustable Double Strap
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1001 THINGS FREE

Get FREE samples, books, courses, coins, stamps, products, meals, toys, films, food-drug samples, science materials, records, jewelry, textiles, travel info, cars, cosmetics, gov't agencies, clubs, non-profit groups, schools, etc. Kit includes Request Cards, pens, 64-page directory.
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Looks like attractive, sturdy book. Does not open to reveal secret combination lock safe. Keep valuables, papers, jewelry, money, etc. Can't be seen. 4 x 6 x 1-1/2".
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UGLY BLACKHEADS OUT IN SECONDS!

Eliminates Pimples! Be Good Looking!

removes blackheads & whiteheads, cleanly and safely. No pinching. Guaranteed
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REAL FOLDING QUARTER

Genuine quarter made so it actually "folds". When pressed lightly, device automatically snaps it back into original shape. Do impossible trick. Last little pop bottle. You can remove without breaking bottle. Often sold for $10 or more.
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$20 GOLD COIN $1.00

Exact authentic replicas 3 for $2.25.
☐ 5705. $20 U.S. Gold Coin.. $1.00
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Rides silver "German Iron Cross" and figure of surfer on black enamel ground. Hand-some, rugged ring. Can be engraved on face of wrap-around silver band.
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"Comes to Life"

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Electronic Experiment Kit. Light weight. Solid fuel burns to give strong, continuous action. Alternators.
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3 Packs $2.00 ..... 10 Packs $5.00

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GO TREASURE HUNTING FISH WITH A MAGNET. Hours of exciting fun. LIFT 25 TO 50 POUNDS ON LAND. EVEN MORE UNDER-WATER! Thousands of practical uses. Magnet ..$1.50
Powerful alnico-5 magnet. Recovers valuable objects from motors, tackle, tools, metal objects. Have fun doing many salon-pects. Here are a few: 405S..50-lb. Magnet ..$2.95
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Use sports including fishing. Includes metal objects in buildings, underground, etc.

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Need like a Horse! Tail like Monkey! Pouch like Kangaroo! Change color! Father gives birth to about 25 baby ponies from his pouch. Grow up to 6 inches. Fascinating eyes. Protective armor. Swim, mate, entwine tails around each other. Pair is a family. Easy to keep. Nature's cutest oddity. Set includes special live sea Aquarium, Sea Horse Hitching Post, Foliage & Salmon, Sea Salts (enough for an aquarium), 2 Fresh live Sea Horses, Booklet. Safe Live Delivery Guaranteed.
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RING WITH SURFER & IRON CROSS

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Hypnotic Whirling Coin

FELT Emblems

BIDGET SPY CAMERA

HORIZONTAL STEAM ENGINE

BROADCAST THRU TV SET

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"SECRET AGENT" Pen Radio

Hear Police, Fire, Aircraft Calls on ANY Radio

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"THROW YOUR VOICE"

SUPER POWER WRIST BANDS

DOORWAY GYM BAR

KETSUGO

1001 THINGS FREE

BOOK SAFE

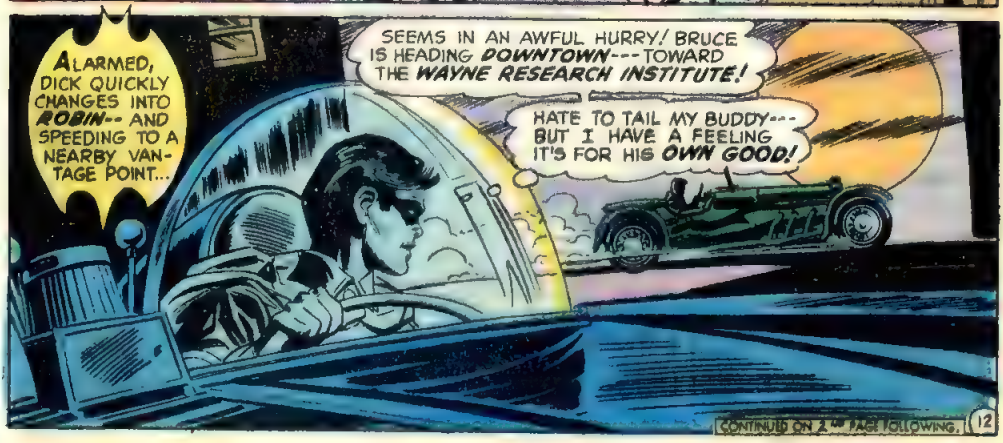
UGLY BLACKHEADS OUT IN SECONDS!

AND THE VAULT-ROOM WIDE OPEN---NO SIGNS OF A NITRO BLOW-OUT! JUST LIKE---LIKE SOMEONE ROLLED OUT THE RED CARPET FOR THEM!
AN INSIDE JOB?
WHAT BOTHERS ME IS--BOTH THE ALARM-SYSTEM AND THE VAULT LOCK-TIMER...
...CAN ONLY BE ACTIVATED BY A VERY SPECIAL KEY---HELD ONLY BY A HIGH OFFICER OF THE CONCERN!
ITS PRESIDENT---CLEM STERLING?!
YES, STERLING HERE! YOU, BATMAN? WHAT'S UP?
A SLIGHT CASE OF YOUR VAULT BEING STRIPPED! DID YOU--FOR ANY REASON...
...SWITCH OFF THE ALARM-SYSTEM AND OPEN THE VAULT TONIGHT?
YES---I DID! ABOUT AN HOUR AGO...
BUT FOR THE LIFE OF ME, I DON'T KNOW WHY!
WHAT?!
CRYPTIC---BUT STRAIGHT, MR. STERLING! NO---THEY DIDN'T GET A THING!
NOW, GET SOME SLEEP---BE BACK AT YOU TOMORROW WHEN YOUR HEAD'S CLEAR!
LATER, EXITING FROM THE SECRET BATCAVE ELEVATOR INTO WAYNE MANSION...
SURE A PUZZLE, DICK! THREE OF MY CLOSEST ASSOCIATES IN GOTHAM'S CIVIC-CONSCIENCE COUNCIL...
...AND THEY DISPLAY THE MOST DISTINCTLY ANTI-CIVIC BEHAVIOR, ALL IN ONE NIGHT!

ARE THEY ALL ISOLATED COINCIDENCES--- OR IS THERE A PATTERN?
WELL, STERLING DIDN'T COVER FOR HIS---ER---NEGLIGENCE, LIKE THE OTHERS! BUT IT STILL FALLS INTO THE CATEGORY OF "AIDING AND ABETTING"!
PARDON ME, MASTER BRUCE...
ONLY ONE CALL TONIGHT, SIR--- SAID IT WAS PERSONAL! SEEMED DISAPPOINTED--- BUT WILL CALL TOMORROW!
PERSONAL, EH? OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T LEAVE HIS NAME--- NOW WHO COULD THAT BE?
LATER THE NEXT DAY...
STILL AT THE PHONE, BRUCE? RIGHT WHERE I LEFT YOU WHEN I WENT TO SCHOOL! BY THE WAY---DID YOU HEAR FROM...
...MY "MYSTERY" CALLER? UH-UH! HE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO GET THROUGH ANYWAY--- I'VE TIED UP THE LINE ALL DAY...
...COLLECTING AN AMAZING ROSTER OF FACTS ABOUT LAST NIGHT'S PUZZLING PREVARICATIONS!
LIKE--- WHAT?
FOR ONE---CARLYLE'S FIRM HAS NO RECORD OF AN INVOICE FOR AN INTERSTATE SHIPMENT LAST NIGHT!
FOR TWO---TIM BARCLAY'S WIFE REPORTS NO TROUBLE WITH THEIR WALL-SAFE! BUT THIS MORNING---ALL HER JEWELS ARE MISSING!
AND THIRD, BUT NOT LAST--- JIGGER'S GANG ADMITS THEY KNEW IN ADVANCE THAT STERLING'S VAULT WOULD BE WIDE-OPEN TO THEM!
WOW! BUT NOT LAST...?
ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER--- LIKE PANDORA'S BOX BEING OPENED!
SEEMS LIKE ALL THE MEMBERS OF OUR CIVIC-CONSCIENCE COUNCIL---EXCLUDING MYSELF---HAVE BEEN HIT BY A SIMILAR PLAGUE!

YOU MEAN...?
EMIL HARTZ ALLOWED HIS FLEET OF RENTAL-CARS TO BE STOLEN!
MYRON MYCROFT ---DITTO WITH HIS PRICELESS CHRONO-SCOPE COLLECTION!
LAWRENCE NELSON ---LIKEWISE WITH HIS PRECIOUS STAMP COLLECTION!
BUT WHY GO ON? ELEVEN GOOD MEN, ALLOWING OR HELPING CRIME TO FLOURISH ---UNTOUCHED!
BUT WHY---WHY? WHAT UNKNOWN PRESSURE ARE THEY UNDER? HAS THE UNDER-WORLD GOTTEN TO THEM--- IS IT BLACKMAIL? EXTORTION? HYPNOSIS?
BUT THEY CLAM UP--- SAY THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT COMPULSION DROVE THEM TO THIS!
ELEVEN MEN, TRIED AND TRUE---THE PILLARS OF GOTHAM SOCIETY---HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?
TRING!
YES, THIS IS BRUCE WAYNE! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU--?
THIS IS WHAT YOU WILL DO FOR ME...
AND AS A STRANGELY SHAKEN BRUCE HANGS UP...
YOUR MYSTERY CALLER? WHO WAS HE--- WHAT DID HE...
I-I DON'T KNOW! BUT I DO KNOW WHAT I MUST DO!
THAT NIGHT--AFTER A CURIOUSLY SILENT DINNER...
SOMETHING'S BEEN BUGGING BRUCE EVER SINCE THAT PHONE CALL, BUT I CAN'T PULL IT OUT OF HIM! BETTER PRETEND NOTHING'S WRONG...
WE'D BETTER GET READY FOR OUR NIGHT PATROL, BRUCE...

HEY, YOU ARE PREOCCUPIED! THE BATCAVE ELEVATOR IS THIS WAY...
GET STARTED WITHOUT ME, DICK! THERE'S A JOB I MUST ATTEND TO FIRST!


ALARMED, DICK QUICKLY CHANGES INTO ROBIN-- AND SPEEDING TO A NEARBY VANTAGE POINT...
SEEMS IN AN AWFUL HURRY! BRUCE IS HEADING DOWNTOWN---TOWARD THE WAYNE RESEARCH INSTITUTE!
HATE TO TAIL MY BUDDY--- BUT I HAVE A FEELING IT'S FOR HIS OWN GOOD!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
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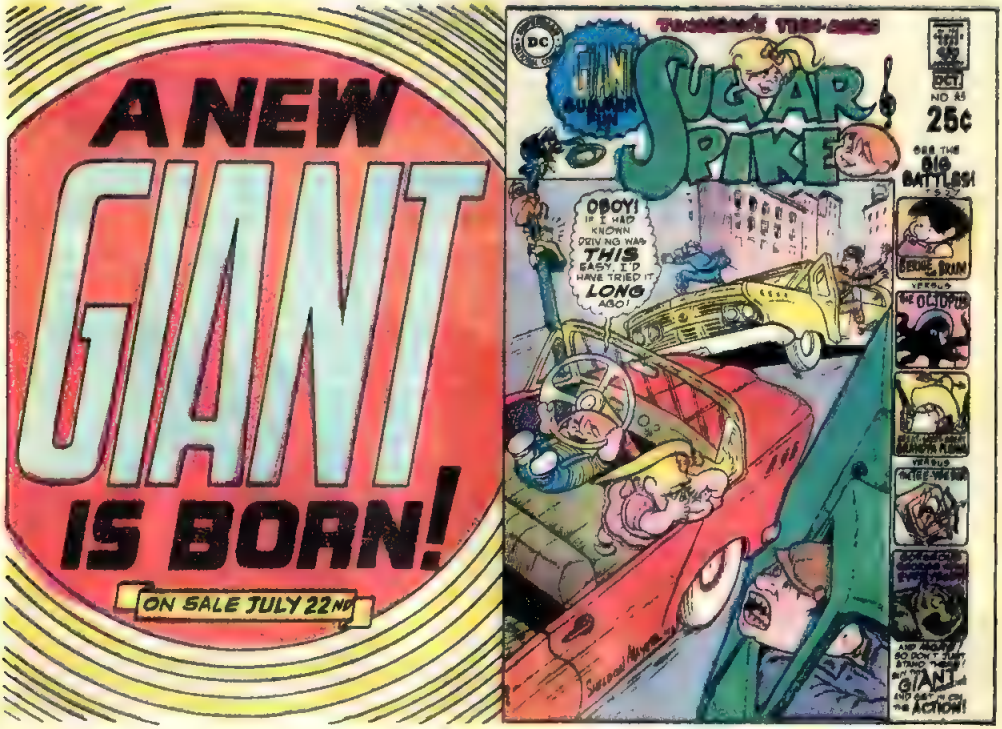
A NEW GIANT IS BORN!
ON SALE JULY 22ND
DC
GIANT SUMMER FUN
SUGAR & SPIKE
OCT
NO 45
25¢
SEE THE BIG BATTLES!
OBOY! IF I HAD KNOWN DRIVING WAS THIS EASY, I'D HAVE TRIED IT LONG AGO!
VERSUS
VERSUS
AND ABOVE ALL SO DON'T JUST STAND THERE! BUY THIS GIANT AND SEE IT ON THE ACTION!

Young America Record Club's

Top-Hit Records

75¢ and up

DISCOUNTS 25% 33⅓% 50% or to 75%!

ALL LABELS ★ ALL STARS ★ NO EXCEPTIONS!

★ No Minimum Number Of Records To Buy ★ Order Any Day, Any Week – Same Day Shipments ★ Get Top Hits Even Before In Stock In Your Home Town ★ No Unordered Records ★ No Bills To Pay – Ever! ★ No $1.00 Extra Charge For Stereo

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Buy all the LP's, all the Singles, all the Tapes you want—EVERY label, EVERY star—AT BIG DISCOUNTS—25%, 33⅓%, 50%, even up to 75%. Top-hit records begin as low as 75¢, plus a small charge for speedy delivery to your home. Buy all the records you want OR NOTHING. There's no obligation ever to purchase a minimum number of records.

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Monthly bulletins mailed to you showing nearly 500 records—ALL THE HITS played most by disc jockeys, on the juke boxes. Join today and get 15-record set of "Oldies and Goodies" (an original $13.35 value) free. Your membership dues is just $1.00. Money-back if not happy you joined. Mail $1.00 with coupon to: Young America Record Club, Dept. 10799, 120 E. 56 th ST., N.Y., N.Y. 10022

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Jefferson Airplane	Bill Cosby
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Simon and Garfunkel	Four Tops
The Animals	Paul Revere
Herb Alpert	The Bee Gees
Blues Magoos	Dionne Warwick
The Beach Boys	Lovin' Spoonful
The Beatles	Petula Clark
Johnny Mathis	Herpers Bizarre
Ventures	Supremes
Peter, Paul and Mary	Stevie Wonder
Righteous Brothers	Elvis Presley
The Yellow Balloon	Sonny and Cher
Five Americans	Frank Sinatra
Moby Grape	Nancy Sinatra
The Love Generation	Mamas and Papas
Lettermen	Dean Martin
Tony Bennett	Bob Dylan
Engelbert Humperdinck	Nancy Wilson
Dave Clark Five	MANY MORE

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Dept. 10799, 120 E. 56 th ST., N.Y., N.Y. 10022

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Print Name_____

Print Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

MONEY-BACK IF NOT HAPPY YOU JOINED CLUB

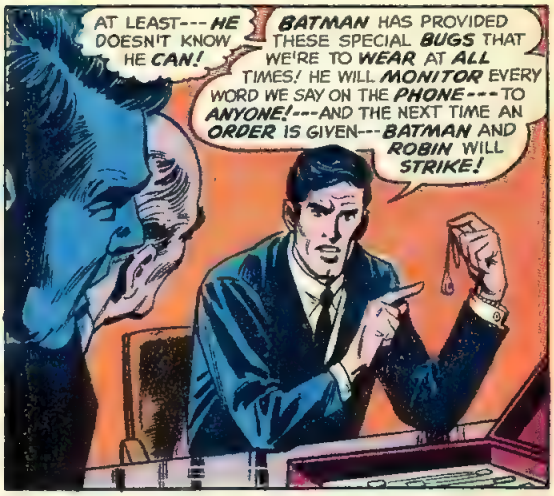
A WILD CHASE LATER, WITH AN ODDLY COMPULSIVE BRUCE WAYNE HEADING AS IF TO AN IRRESISTIBLE RENDEZVOUS...
MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! HE'S OPENING THE STRONG-ROOM CONTAINING VALUABLE STORES OF SCARCE ANTI-BIOTICS! BUT--- WHY?
MOMENTS LATER...
A "JOB" THAT INCLUDES TWO OF THE SHARPEST SMUGGLERS OF PHARMACEUTICALS TO BLACK-MARKETS ABROAD?
THIS--- THIS CAN'T BE THE BRUCE I KNOW!
M-MAYBE I'M THE DELUDED ONE! C-CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SEEING!
BRUCE, TOO? VOLUNTARILY TURNING OVER TO THESE--THESE...
WELL, I'M NOT UNDER ANY SPELL! I'M PUTTING A STOP TO THIS RIGHT NOW!
ROBIN?!
WHA...?! THOUGHT THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO COME OFF WITHOUT A HITCH, WAYNE!
I--I'VE DONE MY PART...
WAYNE BIOTICS
WAYNE PHARMACEUTICALS
WAYNE
WHERE ROBIN IS--- BATMAN CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND!
BUT WE GOT THE CURE FOR THIS LI'L VIRUS!
WHOMP
WAYNE ANTI-BIOTICS
13

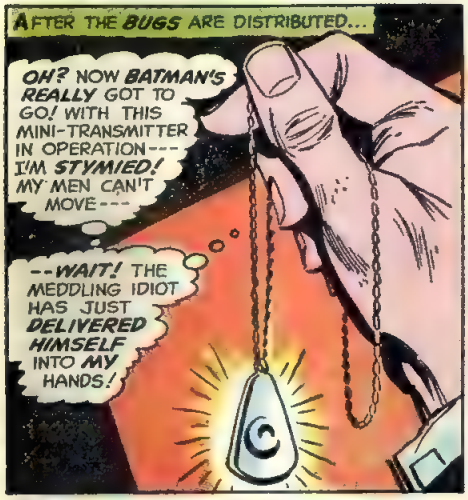
I'M IMMUNE TO YOUR "CURES" PUNK!
POW
AND--- I'M RESISTANT TO "BUGS" THAT SNEAK UP ON YOU!
LUNG
W-WHAT HAVE I DONE?
ALMOST DID, BRUCE! BUT--WHY?
THAT VOICE ON THE PHONE ---TOLD ME EXACTLY WHAT TO DO--AND I DID IT! BUT WHY, ROBIN--- WHY?
PERHAPS IF WE KNEW THAT--WE'D ALSO KNOW WHY YOU'VE JUST MADE THE CIVIC-CONSCIENCE COUNCIL-PATSIES--AN EVEN DOZEN!
COULD THEY TOO HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR PHONE INSTRUCTIONS VIA THIS MYSTERY VOICE?
WHAT BUGS ME IS---HE DIDN'T THREATEN IN ANY WAY! JUST CALMLY ORDERED ME TO DO IT!
AND LIKE AN OBEDIENT CHILD--- I OBEYED WITHOUT QUESTION!
LIKE AN OBEDIENT CHILD...? OR...
HIT ME, BRUCE! RIGHT ON THE BUTTON!
W-WHAT?!
THAT'S AN ORDER!

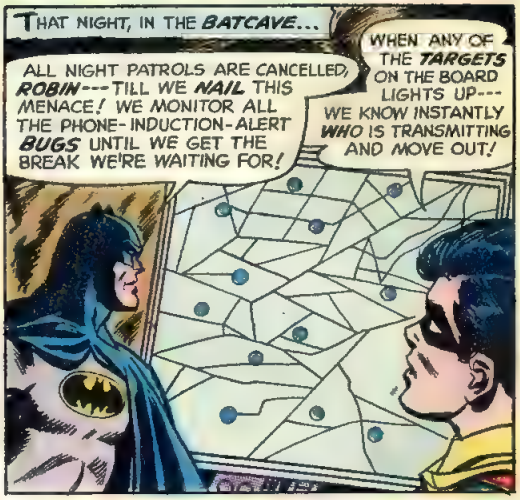
K-POW!
AN ORDER IS AN--- ORDER!
WAS PREPARED FOR THAT PUNCH--- SO ROLLED BACK WITH IT...
YOU ASKED FOR IT, ROBIN--- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
CORRECTION! I DIDN'T ASK FOR IT--- I ORDERED IT!
AND--YOU OBEYED!
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?
I JUST PLAYED A WAY-OUT HUNCH--- AND IT WORKED! I'VE JUST RULED OUT HYPNOSIS-- AND PROVED SOMETHING ELSE!
EVEN UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION--- YOU WOULDN'T OBEY MY ORDER TO HIT ME! EVEN IF YOU'D STRIKE YOUR BEST FRIEND!
WHICH PROVES...
THAT I'M SUGGESTIBLE TO VOICE-COMMANDS--- FROM ANYONE! EVEN YOU, ROBIN...
AND SO MUST THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CIVIC-CONSCIENCE COUNCIL BE EQUALLY SUGGESTIBLE!
SO WE'RE ALL VICTIMS OF SOME DIABOLIC MIND--SOMEONE WHO HAS FOUND A WAY TO CONTROL US! MAKE US DO HIS FOUL DEEDS FOR HIM!
HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN TO YOU INDIVIDUALLY--- HAD TO HAVE YOU ALL TOGETHER AS A GROUP! BUT WHEN--?
15

--LAST WEEK! THE ANNUAL DINNER GIVEN BY THE CITY FATHERS TO HONOR OUR COUNCIL OF TWELVE!
BUT ONLY THE MOST IMPORTANT, REPUTABLE, CIVIC-MINDED PEOPLE WERE PRESENT! WHO COULD'VE SLIPPED US THIS MENTAL-MICKEY?
THE NEXT MORNING...
BIOTIC BURGLARS BAGGED BY BATMAN AND ROBIN!
AGAIN! FIRST, THE GEM HAUL, NOW THIS.../ HADN'T COUNTED ON THIS SORT OF INTERFERENCE WHEN I ORGANIZED THE PERFECT-CRIME SYNDICATE...
...COMPOSED OF UNWILLING BUT CO-OPERATIVE MEMBERS OF HIGH CIVIC-STANDING! BUT NOW I MUST CONCENTRATE ON--ELIMINATING THE INTERFERENCE!
MEANWHILE, WITH THE "INTERFERENCE"...
THANKS FOR COVERING AND TELLING THE POLICE THAT "BATMAN" WAS IN ON LAST NIGHT'S CAPER, DICK! IT MAY BE THE WAY TO BREAK THIS CASE!
I'M NOT QUITE WITH IT, BRUCE! HOW...?
GOTHAM NEWS
BIOTIC BURGLARS BAGGED BY BATMAN AND ROBIN!
BECAUSE OUR MENACE--- WHOEVER HE IS---HAS TO TRY TO STOP US! WE'RE BECOMING THE FLIES IN HIS OINTMENT...
...ONLY I PREFER TO BE THE SPIDER THAT BAITS THE WEB FOR HIM! SO---I'VE CALLED A SPECIAL MEETING OF OUR COUNCIL OF TWELVE!
YOU JUST LOST ME! BUT MAYBE AFTER THE MEETING, I'LL CATCH UP!
LATER, AT THE WAYNE INSTITUTE...
GENTLEMEN, AS CHAIRMAN, I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF CALLING THIS EMERGENCY SESSION BECAUSE...
WE'VE ALL BECOME VICTIMS OF A BIZARRE SCHEME TO EXTORT OUR WEALTH FROM US--WITH OUR HELP!
PLEASE---DON'T DENY IT! OR OUR UNKNOWN VICTIMIZER WILL SUCCEED, BECAUSE HE COUNTS ON OUR SILENCE! AND OUR MUTUAL SHAME...
THAT'S ABSURD!
AGREED! BUT HOW CAN WE DEFEAT HIM---WHILE HE HAS THIS STRANGE HOLD ON US?

SINCE UNDOUBTEDLY OUR CORPUPTOR HAS JUST BEGUN TO CONTROL US---I'VE TAKEN CERTAIN PRE-CAUTIONS!
THROUGH COMMISSIONER GORDON, I'VE CONTACTED THE ONE MAN HE CAN'T CONTROL--- BATMAN!


AT LEAST---HE DOESN'T KNOW HE CAN!
BATMAN HAS PROVIDED THESE SPECIAL BUGS THAT WE'RE TO WEAR AT ALL TIMES! HE WILL MONITOR EVERY WORD WE SAY ON THE PHONE---TO ANYONE!---AND THE NEXT TIME AN ORDER IS GIVEN---BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL STRIKE!


AFTER THE BUGS ARE DISTRIBUTED...
OH? NOW BATMAN'S REALLY GOT TO GO! WITH THIS MINI-TRANSMITTER IN OPERATION--- I'M STYMIED! MY MEN CAN'T MOVE---
--WAIT! THE MEDDLING IDIOT HAS JUST DELIVERED HIMSELF INTO MY HANDS!


THAT NIGHT, IN THE BATCAVE...
ALL NIGHT PATROLS ARE CANCELLED, ROBIN---TILL WE NAIL THIS MENACE! WE MONITOR ALL THE PHONE-INDUCTION-ALERT BUGS UNTIL WE GET THE BREAK WE'RE WAITING FOR!
WHEN ANY OF THE TARGETS ON THE BOARD LIGHTS UP--- WE KNOW INSTANTLY WHO IS TRANSMITTING AND MOVE OUT!

ONE THING'S SURE--- WAYNE MANOR WON'T TRANSMIT! "BRUCE WAYNE" IS OFFICIALLY OUT FOR THE NIGHT!
LOOK! NUMBER 7 IS ON---MYRON MYCROFT!
YES, MASTER ---WHAT IS YOUR WISH?

I'M TO TAKE ALL MY NEGOTIABLE SECURITIES...
...MEET YOU... THIRTY MINUTES ...FRONT OF THE NIGHT-DEPOSITORY OF GOTHAM FIRST NATIONAL...

THAT'S IT! OUR MYSTERY MAN IS MAKING PERSONAL CONTACT WITH HIS VICTIM!
WE'LL BE THERE WAITING FOR HIM!
A HALF-HOUR LATER...
HERE COMES MYCROFT NOW-- NO ONE ELSE IN SIGHT!
OUR PHONE-PHONEY WOULDN'T PICK A BUSY THOROUGHFARE! WE WAIT TILL HE MAKES THE GRAB--- THEN WE NAB HIM!
MOMENTS LATER...
MOVE, ROBIN!
OKAY, PHONE-PAL--- FREEZE!
B-BATMAN!
BUT AT A SUDDEN SOUND BEHIND THE DYNAMIC DUO...
AMBUSH! BATMAN--- DUCK!
KLANG!
DOWN--- MYCROFT!
RATATAT!

BRRRRP
KLANG
DSH
NOT ALL RATS THAT COME OUT OF SEWERS ARE --RODENTS!
KLONK
THE MYSTERY MAN-- GETTING AWAY!
I'LL GET HIM, BATMAN!
SORRY WE BUNGLED IT, MYCROFT--- DIDN'T FIGURE HE WAS PLANNING TO KNOCK YOU OFF.
BIG "PROTECTION" YOU ARE, BATMAN!
TAKE YOUR INEPT PAWS OFF OF ME!
YES, MASTER!
"MASTER"? THEN BATMAN TOO --- IS SUBJECT TO VOICE-COMMAND?!
AND AS A SADDENED ROBIN RETURNS...
HE JUMPED INTO A WAITING CAR, BATMAN--- LOST HIM!
WE'RE SURE A PAIR OF BUNGLERS, ROBIN--- THIS IS JUST NOT OUR NIGHT!
BATMAN DIDN'T GUESS THIS TRAP WAS SET FOR HIM---OR, IS HE PLAYING IT CUTE? TRYING TO TRAP ME---BY REACTING TO VOICE-COMMAND?
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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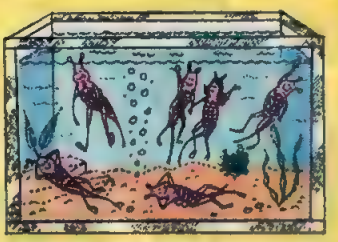
Just Add Water — you've got "INSTANT LIFE"®

ONLY $1.00



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These genuine living sea animals begin life from a seemingly inanimate handful of glittering crystals which contain the secret of life. A fantastic genetic material that stays alive for as long as twenty years. And these delightful pets that are born alive are so tiny . . . only three-quarters of an inch long when full grown, you raise an entire troupe in an ordinary glass of water from your sink. It's so safe, just empty the package of crystals we send you into the fish bowl of water and you will immediately see "Instant Life." Best of all, you can create a whole new brood at any time, to give as gifts or sell if you wish.

They Obey Your Silent Commands

You can actually make these marvelous Sea Monkeys behave like a bunch of trained seals as they follow a beam of light anywhere. Just darken the room and watch them follow a flashlight or candle beam forward, backward, sideways or around like a pack of happy kids playing Follow the Leader. So don't delay! Order now. Only $1.00 plus 25¢ shipping charges complete.

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I enclose $1 plus 25¢ ship. charges for each kit. Send____kit(s).
☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order.
Total amount enclosed $_____ (No C.O.D.'s please)

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Address_____
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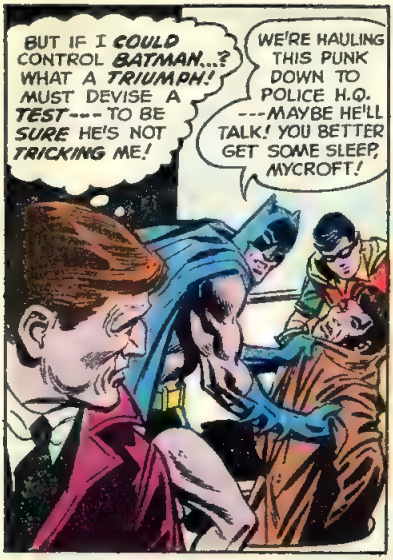
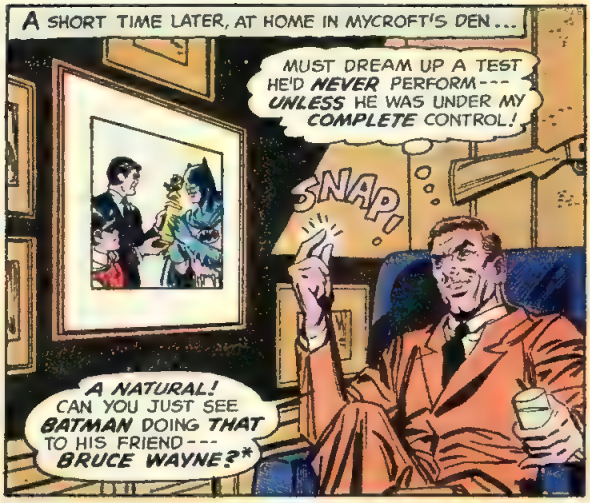
Free Ride CAROSEL
Free Ride WHIP


BUT IF I COULD CONTROL BATMAN...? WHAT A TRIUMPH! MUST DEVISE A TEST--- TO BE SURE HE'S NOT TRICKING ME!
WE'RE HAULING THIS PUNK DOWN TO POLICE H.Q. ---MAYBE HE'LL TALK! YOU BETTER GET SOME SLEEP, MYCROFT!

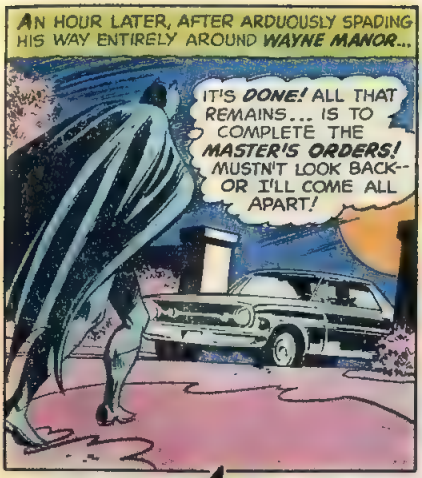

A SHORT TIME LATER, AT HOME IN MYCROFT'S DEN...
MUST DREAM UP A TEST HE'D NEVER PERFORM--- UNLESS HE WAS UNDER MY COMPLETE CONTROL!
SNAP!
A NATURAL! CAN YOU JUST SEE BATMAN DOING THAT TO HIS FRIEND--- BRUCE WAYNE?*

* MANY TIMES, WHEN **BATMAN HAD** TO APPEAR **WITH** "BRUCE WAYNE" A STAND-IN...ALFRED THE BUTLER... SOMETIMES EVEN **SUPERMAN**... HELPED IN THE MASQUERADE...

INSPIRED, MYCROFT CALLS POLICE H.Q.--
LUCKY I KNOW WHERE TO REACH HIM JUST NOW---
YES--- I WISH TO SPEAK TO BATMAN, PERSONALLY!
ONE MOMENT, SIR...

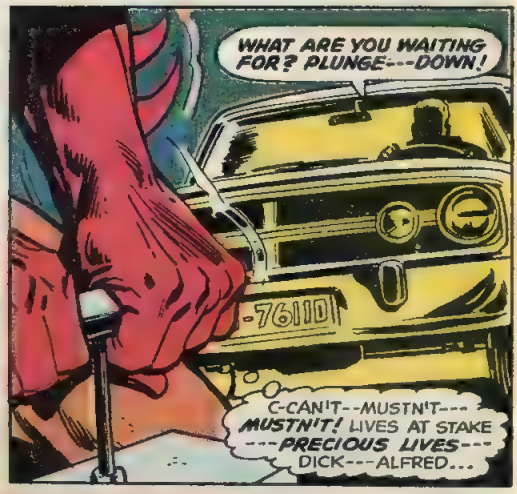
AND AS BATMAN LISTENS, SILENTLY BUT INTENTLY..
---AND IT MUST BE DONE BY MIDNIGHT! YOU ARE TO CONFIDE IN NO ONE, UNDERSTAND?
PERFECTLY! I SHALL COMPLY!
WHO KNEW TO FIND BATMAN HERE NOW? AND THE SAME LOOK THAT CAME OVER HIM--- WHEN HE GOT THAT LAST CALL!?

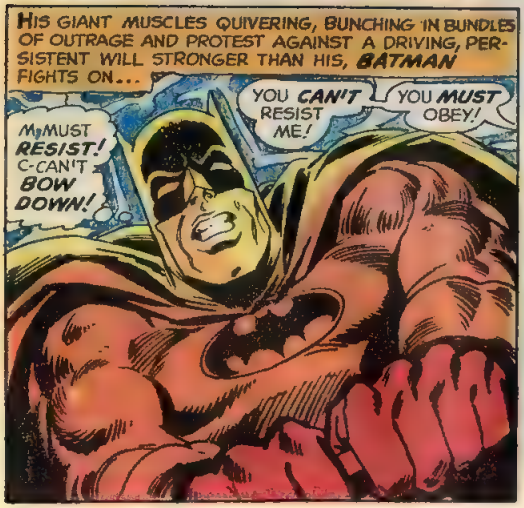
ON RETURN TO THE BATCAVE...
NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO TONIGHT, BATMAN...
NOTHING MORE YOU CAN DO, DO---GO TO BED! I'VE GOT SOME---ER-- GARDENING TO DO!


AN HOUR LATER, AFTER ARDUOUSLY SPADING HIS WAY ENTIRELY AROUND WAYNE MANOR...
IT'S DONE! ALL THAT REMAINS... IS TO COMPLETE THE MASTER'S ORDERS! MUSTN'T LOOK BACK--OR I'LL COME ALL APART!

THEN, UNDER THE MASTER'S AVID EYES, BATMAN REVEALS WHAT HE HAS KEPT HIDDEN LIKE A GUILTY SECRET!..
AH! YOU ARE A GOOD, OBEDIENT PUPPY!
NOW YOU WILL DEMONSTRATE YOUR UTTER DEVOTION TO MY COMMANDS...

I ORDER YOU TO ---DESTRUCT!
I--I HEAR --AND OBEY, MASTER!


WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? PLUNGE---DOWN!
C-CAN'T--MUSTN'T--- MUSTN'T! LIVES AT STAKE ---PRECIOUS LIVES--- DICK---ALFRED...


HIS GIANT MUSCLES QUIVERING, BUNCHING IN BUNDLES OF OUTRAGE AND PROTEST AGAINST A DRIVING, PERSISTENT WILL STRONGER THAN HIS, BATMAN FIGHTS ON...
YOU CAN'T RESIST ME!
YOU MUST OBEY!
M-MUST RESIST! C-CAN'T BOW DOWN!

...AND ON, SHUTTING HIS EYES AS IF TO SHUT OUT THE VERBAL BATTERING ECHOING IN HIS TORTURED BRAIN!
STOP RESISTING, BATMAN---THEN YOUR MIND CAN REST! YOU WILL BE--AT PEACE WITH YOURSELF!
THUD
DOWN!!
CONTINUED ON 2 BE PAGE FOLLOWING

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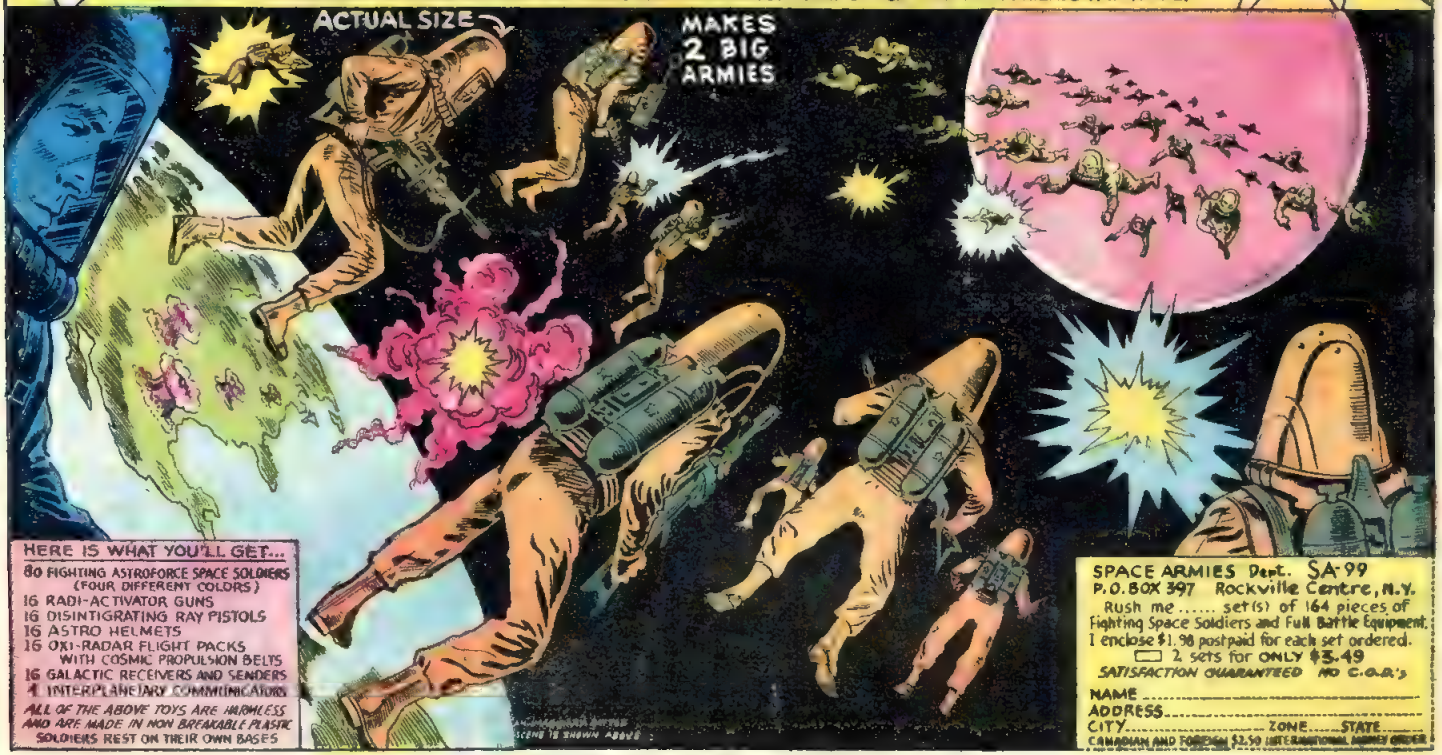

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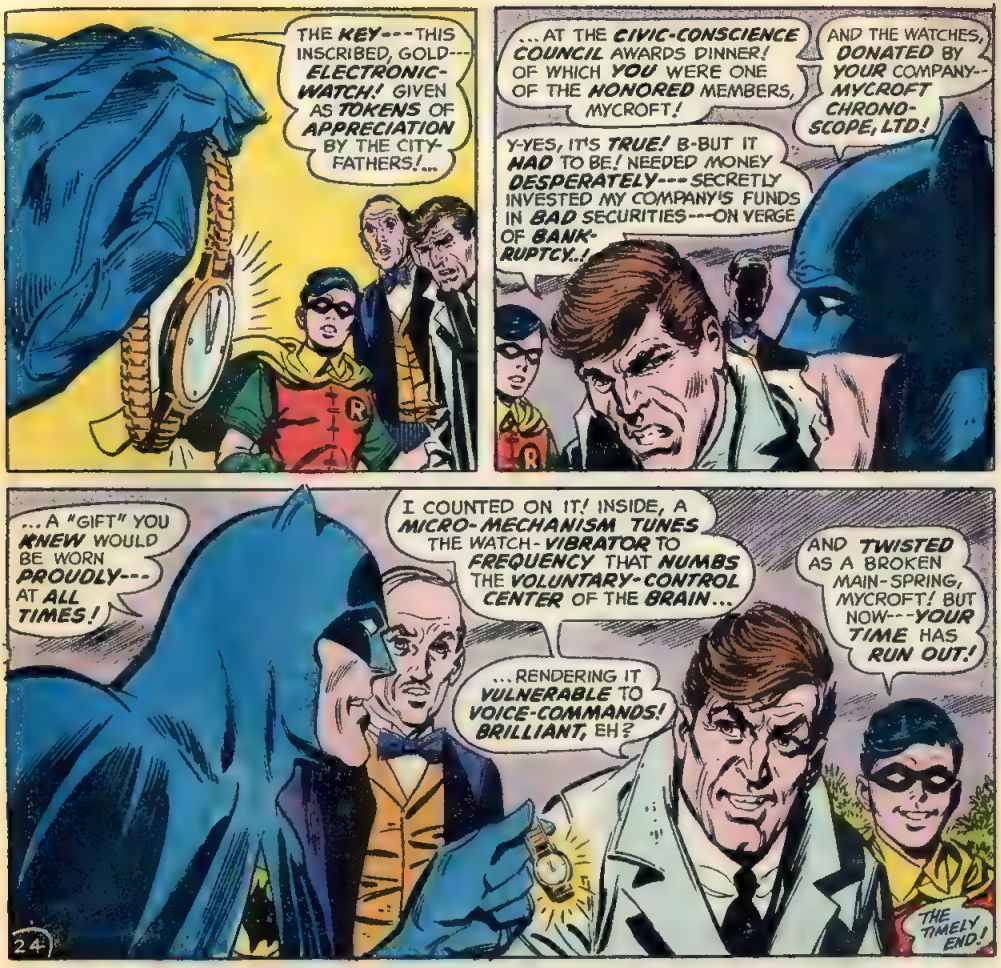
AND THEN... HIS MIGHTY WILL POWER CRACKING SUDDENLY AS A GIANT OAK SNAPPING IN A GALE...
VROOM!
M-MUST SOB FINISH IT!
I HAVE DONE AS YOU ORDERED, MASTER! WAYNE MANOR--- AND EVERYONE IN IT---ARE DESTROYED!
HAH! YOU HAVE PASSED MY TEST! AND NOW YOU, BATMAN---ARE MY SLAVE!
BUT, AS A SUDDEN BREEZE DISPERSES THE OPPRESSIVE BLACK PALL OBSCURING THE DEVASTATION OF ONCE-PROUD WAYNE MANOR...
M-MYRON MYCROFT?! Y-YOU ARE THE--- MASTER?!
YOU'VE TRICKED ME!
WAYNE MANOR---INTACT?! UNDAMAGED...? THEN DICK AND ALFRED ARE...
B-BUT I SWEAR, MASTER--- I FOLLOWED YOUR ORDERS TO THE LETTER!
BAH! YOU ONLY PRETENDED TO OBEY ME---TO TRICK ME INTO REVEALING MY TRUE IDENTITY!
YOU'VE DISCOVERED HOW I GAINED CONTROL OVER YOU AND THE OTHERS!

YOU LEARNED YOU WERE WEARING ONE OF MY MICRO-WAVE WILL-POWER NULLIFIERS--- AND REMOVED IT!
BUT THAT KNOWLEDGE WON'T HELP YOU NOW!
WEARING ONE? ONE---WHAT? WHAT DEVILISH DEVICE DID MYCROFT PLANT ON ME---AND WHEN?
I DON'T NEED A WILL-POWER DESTROYER TO DESTROY YOU NOW! DIE, BATMAN!
WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN! MYCROFT--TYCOON AND BRILLIANT INVENTIVE FOUNDER OF THE FINANCIAL EMPIRE AND PRODUCT THAT BEARS HIS NAME!
NEGATIVE, MYCROFT! NOW I GIVE THE ORDERS!
DROP THAT GUN!
YOU'RE---GIVING ME ORDERS? NO--- YOU COULDN'T HAVE PLANTED ONE OF MY OWN DEVICES ON---ME!
YOUR DOUBT IS ALL I NEEDED...
KPOW
...TO PROVE I'M NOT TAKING ORDERS FROM YOU ANYMORE--- MASTER!
MOMENTS LATER...
MYCROFT, EH? NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED--BUT WE DID GUESS YOU WERE ACTING UNDER ORDERS, BATMAN...
...WHEN WE FOLLOWED YOU AND DUG UP WHAT YOU'D "PLANTED" AROUND WAYNE MANOR!
AND BEGGING YOUR PARDON, SIR--- WE REPLANTED HARMLESS FIREWORKS AND SMOKE-BOMBS TO SIMULATE A MASSIVE EXPLOSION!
THEN, IF THEY COVERED FOR YOU---YOU WERE STILL UNDER MY CONTROL, WHEN...
HOW DID YOU...?
REALIZED--- TOO LATE-- THAT YOUR "PRODUCT" WAS SOMEHOW THE KEY TO EVERY-THING! DROPPED IT OFF MY WRIST BEFORE I SLUGGED YOU...
23


THE KEY---THIS INSCRIBED, GOLD--- ELECTRONIC-WATCH! GIVEN AS TOKENS OF APPRECIATION BY THE CITY-FATHERS!...
...AT THE CIVIC-CONSCIENCE COUNCIL AWARDS DINNER! OF WHICH YOU WERE ONE OF THE HONORED MEMBERS, MYCROFT!
AND THE WATCHES, DONATED BY YOUR COMPANY-- MYCROFT CHRONO-SCOPE, LTD!
Y-YES, IT'S TRUE! B-BUT IT HAD TO BE! NEEDED MONEY DESPERATELY--- SECRETLY INVESTED MY COMPANY'S FUNDS IN BAD SECURITIES---ON VERGE OF BANK-RUPTCY..!
...A "GIFT" YOU KNEW WOULD BE WORN PROUDLY--- AT ALL TIMES!
I COUNTED ON IT! INSIDE, A MICRO-MECHANISM TUNES THE WATCH-VIBRATOR TO FREQUENCY THAT NUMBS THE VOLUNTARY-CONTROL CENTER OF THE BRAIN...
AND TWISTED AS A BROKEN MAIN-SPRING, MYCROFT! BUT NOW---YOUR TIME HAS RUN OUT!
...RENDERING IT VULNERABLE TO VOICE-COMMANDS! BRILLIANT, EH?
THE TIMELY END!
24

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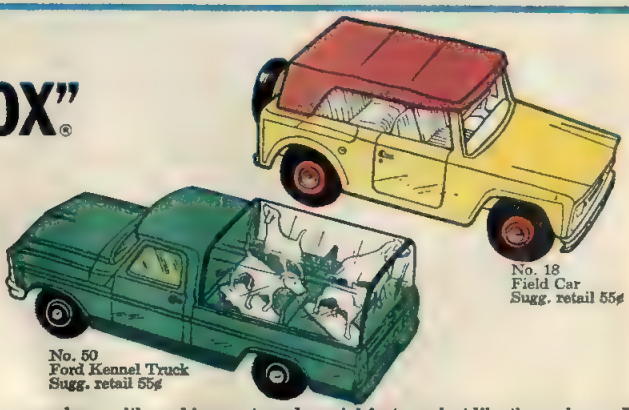

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LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE S-218

Dear Editor:

I am writing for no other reason than to tell you how much I admire the artist team of Irv Novick and Joe Giella. I had never liked Irv's solo work too much, but he is such a perfect penciler for Joe that I daresay even Bob Kane and Carmine Infantino were merely close seconds. One case is the upper outside corners of pages 4 and 5 (*Batman* #211), on which one will find two of the most perfect renditions of Dick Grayson ever seen. It's as though the inks were put over a photograph.

Something I'd like to mention to Irv is the matter of *Batman's* jaw. I appreciate the more box-like quality that was the trademark of the stern jaw of *Batman*, which Irv is slowly bringing back. However, I would still like to see a more or less complete return to the features of the old *Batman*. Think of it not as a jaw, Irv, but a pair of 90 degree angles you're drawing for algebra class. I know some readers consider this type of jaw as comical and non-existent in reality. I don't know. The late and great *John Larkin*, actor extraordinaire, was a box-jawed dream as a *Batman* portrayer.

Well worth noting when mentioning the good old days are scripts like "Batman's Big Blow-Off!" If the "real" *Batman* ever does return, it will be through no small contribution from Frank Robbins. As a *Bat*-writer, Frank's the one!

—GARY SKINNER, Columbus, Ohio

(By one of those quirks in editorial timing—just when such praise is lavished on the Novick-Giella team—this issue pops up with a switch in inkers! We're hopefully anticipating approval of Dick Giordano's stylish treatment—a preliminary move in the BIG CHANGE that's coming to Batman *in the December issue! You'll have to see it to believe it! More artful comments follow in the next letter.*—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

Read *Batman* #211. The quality of the story continues to amaze me. You seem to be getting quite a balance of action, mystery, and melodrama in your latest bunch.

In 211's "Batman's Big Blow-Off" you even had a moral at the ending. Imagine, a moral, after I thought you did well with the main story itself, using an all-modern theme out of today's headlines. You're doing well, sir, on the stories.

As for the art, I'm still a little finicky. It's nice to see that Giella's mastered the square head. However, I notice that your artists are starting to give *Batman* a very long neck and a somewhat basketball-type player body. This will never do! I would like to remind you that *Batman* has a height of 6'-0"—no more. He has a perfectly developed body—not overly muscular as your artists try to show him. In other words, you know the muscle is there, but it doesn't spring out at you as it does on a Steve Reeves type. I believe if your artists studied *Batman* number 5 for a couple of hours, they'd get the idea how *Batman* should look.

—Pittsburgh Sam

(But, Pittsburgh Sam—whoever you may be—is the Batman *of three decades ago the very same* Batman *that should be doing his thing today—and still be the same three decades from now—in the year 2000?—*Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

With *Batman* 211, I feel more and more that Frank Robbins used to read the *Bat-Man* as a kid, and recently picked up the habit again (after some years) when he first began to write for DC. "Batman's Big Blow-Off" stunk. *Batman* has been around for thirty years and has had more than his share of identity cover-ups. Yet this story didn't show it. *Batman* would not, at this point of his career, even think about revealing his identity for convenience. Having Dick be the one to remind Bruce of the dangers of acting as *Batman* in public got me sick.

Criminals would not go off to shoot the four suspects; at least not until which one was *Batman* had actually been revealed. If *Batman* had ignored the exposé, *It's Your Bag* would have had to admit its error, and no one would get killed. If you don't see my argument, let me point out another flaw. Now that everyone knows that *Batman* posed as Howard Hayes, the threat against the four people still remains.

—HARVEY SOBEL, Commack, N.Y.

(You base your arguments on the way you *would compulsively act under given circumstances. Why shouldn't* Batman *reconsider from time to time the advantages and disadvantages of revealing his secret identity? Secondly, there are criminals of all frames of mind—and who is to state categorically how some of them would "time" their killing off of* Batman? *Finally, since the exposé was revealed as a phoney, it is evident that the four* Batman *"suspects" would be cleared.*—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

Batman was actually going to divulge his Bruce Wayne identity! That's something! Only, did he really want to? Notice how Bruce kept on thinking of the *benefits* of divulging his I.D. It could be that he was looking at the bright side to block out the disadvantages. What good is it to be something but keep thinking of its bad sides? If something must be done, make the best of it, right? That might be why Bruce tried to counter Dick's morbid thoughts of added glamor and an easier life. But even he can't shut out the truth of life and he has to face the cold facts of added danger, accounting for the food-poisoning thought.

Another possibility is that Bruce wouldn't mind giving up his cover. Perhaps for more fame or maybe it's because he's sick of hiding. For thirty years he's had to duck behind alleys, cover for his other identity, etc. I don't think that if I were in his shoes, I'd dig doing what he has had to do for all those years!

Another reason could be that he'd like to be widely known. How many millionaires have you heard of? Perhaps quite a few, but there are probably a lot of them you *haven't* heard of. If you were a guy like *Batman*, wouldn't you like everyone to know? Deep down inside, Bruce may feel the same way.

—JOE RUSNAK, Montville, N.J.

* * * * * *

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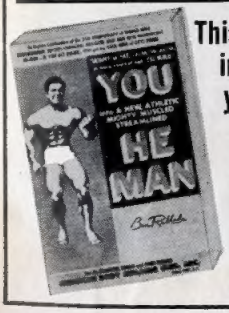

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I GAINED 60 LBS. of Shapely MIGHTY MUSCLES

Before Mailing coupon I was a 125 lb. 6 Ft. skinny weakling, says John Sill I added 7 inches to MY CHEST, 3½ INCHES TO EACH ARM, No, Pal, you don't have to be a chicken-chested skinny weakling like I was only a few weeks ago.

"I LOST 30 LBS. OF dangerous UGLY FAT"

4 inches off my WAIST says Felipe Mendeza

"Look at me NOW! I have MIGHTY MUSCLES, added 7 inches to my CHEST, 3 inches on each arm"! NO! I don't care how fat and flabby you are. All I want is minutes a day in your home to make you over by the same method.

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I want to streamline my body, get rid of flabby fat.....

I want to add inches of muscle to my ..... arms ..... chest ..... shoulders ..... powerful legs ..... slim Waist .....

I want to become a winning athlete..... I want new pep.

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(Do not mail coupon if under 14 years of age)

Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip .....

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